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	6	Samuel IVI. Landau		
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	8	UNITED STATE	ES DISTRICT COURT	
	9	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
	10	OAKLAND DIVISION		
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N RNIA	12	IN RE COLLEGE ATHLETE NIL	Case No. 4:20-cv-03919-CW	
LANDAU LA W. LLF ATTORNEYS AT LAW LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA	13	LITIGATION	LIMITED OBJECTION BY	
LANDAL ATTORN S ANGEL	14		SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBER SAMUEL M. LANDAU TO HOUSE	
ij	15		SETTLEMENT, SEEKING AN EXPANSION OF AUDIT RIGHTS TO	
	16		ADDRESS FRAUDULENT NIL PROMISES BY POWER 5 SCHOOLS,	
	17		OR ALTERNATIVELY, OBJECTING TO THE INCLUSION OF DUKE	
	18		UNIVERSITY IN THE HOUSE SETTLEMENT BASED ON ITS FRAUD	
	19		AND DEFALCATION OF ITS STUDENT ATHLETES; SUPPORTING	
	20		DECLARATIONS OF JENNIFER ALTFELD LANDAU AND RODGER M.	
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SAMUEL LANDAU'S LIMITED OBJECTION TO HOUSE SETTLEMENT

Case No. 4:20-cv-03919-CW

Class Member Samuel M. Landau hereby objects to the Proposed Settlement (the "House

Settlement") because, despite its purported purpose, it does not adequately address his and

The House Settlement should require Power 5 Schools to make good on their pre-

revenue that they were not permitted to receive under prior NCAA rules. Based on Mr. Landau's

Schools, including Duke, have broken promises to student athletes of NIL payments knowing that

efforts by the student athletes and (b) the NCAA's present enforcement mechanisms are woefully

While some may contend that such claims are outside the scope of the Proposed Settlement, there

insufficient to address the ongoing problem of fraudulent inducement by the Power 5 Schools.

is no doubt that, as drafted, the Release Language of the Proposed Settlement is so broad that

September 15, 2024 breached NIL promises, as well as to reimburse student-athletes for NIL

experience and other publicly reported stories of breached NIL promises, certain Power 5

(a) the Power 5 Schools have greater power and resources to enable them to avoid collection

potentially other student athletes' NIL damage claims prior to September 15, 2024.

Duke University ("Duke") Student-Athlete, NCAA D-1 Tennis Player and Settlement

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some Power 5 schools likely will try to argue that the Proposed Settlement releases student athletes' claims for fraudulent inducement based on promises of NIL payments and/or breach of contract based on unpaid NIL payments.

Mr. Landau's experience at Duke University this past year should be considered as a cautionary tale: As a highly recruited NCAA D-1 Tennis Player who entered the Transfer Portal in December 2023, Mr. Landau was promised approximately \$45,000 of NIL payments (on top of his scholarship) by Duke's Head Coach of Men's Tennis Ramsey Smith as an inducement to transfer to Duke. Coach Ramsey Smith confirmed in numerous conversations that between the scholarship and the NIL payments, Duke would not cost Mr. Landau "anything." Coach Ramsey Smith even confirmed that Mr. Landau would be "well taken care of" with NIL payments in a text message to Mr. Landau's mother on April 28, 2024. Coach Ramsey Smith documented his promises in a text to Mrs. Landau on April 28, 2024 because he had become nervous that Mr. Landau would choose to attend the University of Southern California instead of Duke. See

Declaration of Jennifer Altfeld Landau and Exhibit A thereto.

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After Mr. Landau decided to transfer to Duke, Coach Ramsey Smith, an employee of Duke – which has a \$12 billion endowment – breached his promise of substantial NIL payments to Mr. Landau. Coach Ramsey Smith did this even though Mr. Landau was a high-performing student-athlete who was ranked No. 37 in the ITA Pre-Season College Tennis Rankings in December 2024.

When Mr. Landau's parents brought Coach Ramsey Smith's NIL breach and fraudulent inducement claims to the attention of Ms. Nina King, Duke's Athletic Director, she chose to do nothing. Ms. King appears to be unaware of the doctrine of *respondeat superior*, and, therefore, took the unlawful position that Duke is not responsible for the NIL promises made by its coaches/employees, like Coach Ramsey Smith.

The arrogance and deceptive practices of Duke, through Coach Ramsey Smith and Athletic Director Nina King, did not end there. When Mr. Landau and his parents complained about the breach of Coach Ramsey Smith's NIL promises, Coach Ramsey Smith thereafter retaliated against Mr. Landau by falsely claiming that Mr. Bruce Berque, Head Coach of the No. 1 Ranked University of Texas Men's Tennis Team, had told him in May 2024 that Mr. Landau was a drug addict when he attended Indiana University last year. 1 Not only was Coach Ramsey Smith's claim 100% false, 2 and not only has Coach Bruce Berque never met or spoken with Mr. Landau, but the University of Texas has categorically denied Coach Ramsey Smith's false statement. See Declaration of Rodger Mr. Landau and Exhibit B thereto (email from the University of Texas). Coach Ramsey Smith's false claim that Coach Bruce Berque had told him

¹ Duke Men's Tennis Player Connor Krug initially created the false rumor that Mr. Landau was a drug addict in a foolish attempt to protect his starting spot on Duke Men's Tennis Team. Despite knowing that Mr. Krug's story about Mr. Landau's alleged drug problems was entirely false, Coach Ramsey Smith deliberately embellished Mr. Krug's false rumor in January 2025 to punish Mr. Landau and to gain favor with Mr. Krug's family (Mr. Krug is the grandson of ESPN broadcaster Dick Vitale – believed to be one of the many financial supporters of Duke and its Tennis Program).

² Mr. Landau has no drug problems and has never had any drug problems. Mr. Landau passed every drug test administered by Indiana University when he attended the Kelly School of Business from 2022-2024. Moreover, Indiana University recruited Mr. Landau to re-join the Indiana Men's Tennis Team within days of Mr. Landau entering the Transfer Portal on May 5, 2025.

that Mr. Landau had drug problems was pure retaliation, designed to force Mr. Landau to refrain from airing his complaints.

When Coach Ramsey Smith's first lie did not work, Coach Ramsey Smith promoted another false claim the following month that Mr. Landau – who is Jewish – controls an Instagram media account called "Parsabums" – a social media site that often criticizes members of Duke Men's Tennis Team. Athletic Director Nina King and her staff even scheduled a meeting with the Duke Men's Tennis Team coaches and players (excluding Mr. Landau) to discuss whether Mr. Landau was running the social media site. Mr. Landau is not involved in any social media site, is not the Administrator of Parsabums, and, despite being the only Jewish member of Duke's Men's Tennis Team, does not control the media. Again, after Duke's unsuccessful attempt to label Mr. Landau a drug addict, Duke resorted to an inapplicable Jewish trope to try to force Mr. Landau to refrain from asserting complaints against Duke. The message to Mr. Landau was clear: Duke is willing to be vicious.

If a University with a \$12 billion endowment is willing to go to these extraordinary lengths to avoid paying a highly ranked student athlete \$45,000 of promised NIL payments, it is reasonable to believe that Duke is not the only University that has breached its promises to make NIL payments and that other schools have done the same, including by personally attacking their student athletes.

1. Proposed Amendment to House Settlement

Given the broad language of the Proposed Release, which an opportunistic Power 5 School likely will try to read to extinguish claims for fraudulent inducement and breach of NIL promises like those of Mr. Landau, the Proposed Settlement should be amended to address all potential damage claims arising out of broken NIL promises. The most effective amendment to cure this unintended potential consequence would be to expand the House Settlement's Audit Rights to allow student athletes a mechanism for recovering NIL payments that were promised but remain unpaid. This is particularly appropriate and necessary where, as here, amounts at issue for student athlete recruits in the non-revenue sports like Tennis are simply too small to justify the filing of lawsuits.

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Moreover, lawsuits against a university can harm a student-athlete's marketability and because of the inherent power dynamic, most Settlement Class Members never will be compensated for this type of NIL loss without action by this Court. A confidential binding arbitration process where student-athletes can assert NIL fraud and breach of contract claims against Power 5 schools seems appropriate in the context of these proceedings. Further, because of the damage that these schools are causing to student athletes, the arbitration panel should be permitted to impose compensation against the Power 5 Schools of up to \$5 million per student athlete. This amendment would allow student athletes to be compensated for their NIL-related harm, in addition to the potential emotional distress that can result from being retaliated against by their schools for standing up for themselves.

2. In the Alternative, This Court Should Omit Duke from the House Settlement

As explained above, the Athletic Department of Duke simply ignores contractual obligations to its own student athletes. Coaches like Coach Ramsey Smith promise NIL payments to athletic recruits without any intention of fulfilling those promises, knowing that the student athletes lack sufficient power to enforce their promises. Similarly, Athletic Directors like Ms. Nina Smith disavow the promises made by the coaches she allegedly supervises.

Even if one overlooks Duke's subsequent behavior – faced with a complaint of NIL nonpayment, Duke retaliated against Mr. Landau with false claims of drug dependency and an antisemitic trope in the hope of forcing him to keep quiet – this Court should not extend the protections of this Settlement to Duke. Simply put, Duke's Athletic Department is so powerful and corrupt that it cannot be trusted to comply with any contract or settlement agreement, ever. Academic institutions like Duke do not "mistakenly" breach contracts, do not "mistakenly" label their student athletes drug addicts, and do not "mistakenly" attack their Jewish student athletes with claims that they control the media. Mr. Landau's unfortunate experience illustrates that Duke has lost institutional control over its Athletic Department.

While there may be other Power 5 Schools that employ coaches to lie to recruits, have coaches who believe they are so powerful that they can inadvertently document their deceptive practices by text with impunity, and then have their Athletic Directors intimidate their student

athletes in an attempt to silence any complaints, it is clear that Duke is at least one of them.

Duke should not receive an NIL "fresh start," and release of claims from the student-athletes that it has defrauded, before being required to address its NIL frauds and without being subject to much stronger oversight moving forward.

3. Notice to Duke University

In an attempt to avoid payment of the promised NIL payments to Mr. Landau, Duke retained senior trial lawyer Mark E. Anderson of the McGuire Woods law firm to represent Duke Athletics, including without limitation, Ms. Nina King and Coach Ramsey Smith. Mr. Anderson was served with this Objection by Email and U.S. Mail.³

LANDAU LAW LLP Rodger M. Landau

By: /s/ Rodger M. Landau
Attorney for Limited Objector
Samuel M. Landau

DATED: May 15, 2025

³ Due to NCAA eligibility requirements and the timing of the Transfer Portal, Mr. Landau needed to delay this Objection until after he had finished the semester at Duke and entered the Transfer Portal on May 5, 2025 (Mr. Landau needed to finish the semester at Duke to preserve his NCAA eligibility for next year). Mr. Landau apologizes to this Court for the tardiness of this Limited Objection.

5 - Case No. 4:20-cv-03919-CW

DECLARATION OF JENNIFER ALTFELD LANDAU

I, Jennifer Altfeld Landau, hereby declare as follows:

- 1. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law in the State of California and before this Court. I am a limited liability partner in Landau Law LLP, which serves as counsel to Limited Objector Samuel M. Landau ("Mr. Landau"). I am also Mr. Landau's mother. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below and, if called to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto.
- 2. In my capacity as Mr. Landau's mother, I communicated with Duke University's Head Coach of Men's Tennis Ramsey Smith on many occasions regarding Mr. Landau's prospective transfer to Duke University. One of these communications took the form of a text message sent by Coach Ramsey Smith to me on April 28, 2024, in which Coach Ramsey Smith stated that Mr. Landau would be "well taken care of" with NIL payments. A true and correct copy of that text message is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on May 15, 2025, at Los Angeles, California.

Jenmfer Altfeld Landau

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LANDAU LAW LLP Attorneys At Law Los Angeles, California

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DECLARATION OF RODGER M. LANDAU

I, Rodger M. Landau, hereby declare as follows:

- 1. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law in the State of California and before this Court. I am the managing partner of Landau Law LLP, which serves as counsel to Limited Objector Samuel M. Landau ("Mr. Landau"). I am also Mr. Landau's father. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below and, if called to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto.
- 2. I heard in January 2025 that Coach Ramsey Smith had claimed that Bruce Berque, the Head Coach of the Men's Tennis Team at the University of Texas, had told him that my son Sam Landau had drug problems. Since my son Sam does not have drug problems and has never had drug problems, I reached out to the University of Texas and asked if the false rumor about my son and drugs had started with Coach Bruce Berque. Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of an email dated March 5, 2025 that I received from Sarah Baumgartner, the Executive Senior Associate Athletics Director for Sports Administration at the University of Texas, in response to my inquiry. Coach Berque was copied on Ms. Baumgartner's email, which confirmed that neither Coach Berque nor one his players (Jonah Braswell) had said anything to Coach Ramsey Smith, Connor Krug, or anyone else about any alleged drug use by my son.

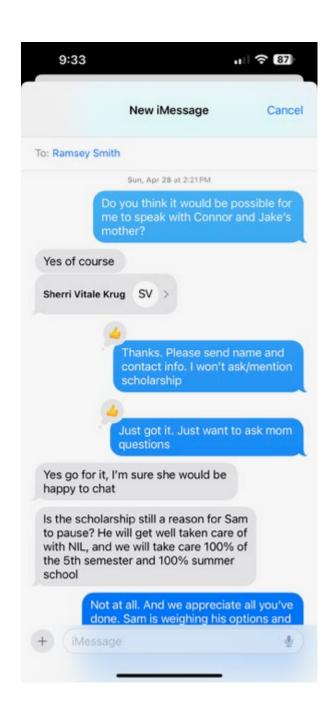
I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

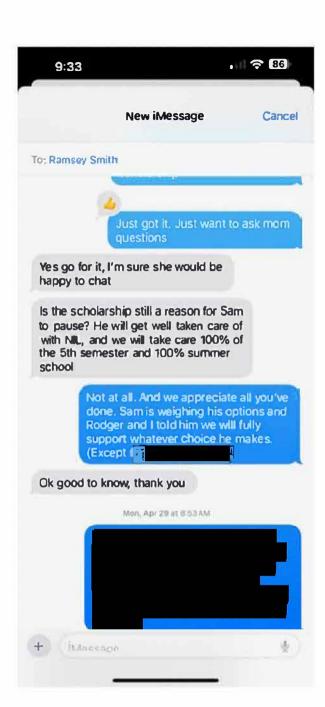
Executed on May 15, 2025, at Los Angeles, California.

/s/ Rodger M. Landau

Rodger M. Landau

EXHIBIT A





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EXHIBIT B

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Jennifer Landau

Subject:

FW: Request to University of Texas Men's Tennis Program

From: Baumgartner, Sarah < Sarah.Baumgartner@athletics.utexas.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 2:19 PM To: Rodger Landau <rlandau@landaufirm.com>

Cc: Hammond, Lori V < ! Hoffman, Megan N < Megan.Hoffman@athletics.utexas.edu ; Berque,

Bruce E < bruce.berque@athletics.utexas.edu >

Subject: Re: Request to University of Texas Men's Tennis Program

EXTERNAL

Mr. Landau,

Coach Berque shared your email with me and Lori Hammond, our Senior Associate Athletics Director for Risk Management and Compliance, who is also copied. Following our review, we do not have any information supporting that Coach Berque or Mr. Braswell made any comments to Coach Smith or Mr. Krug (or anyone else) alleging your son's drug use.

We wish you and your family the best.

Sincerely, Sarah

Sarah Baumgartner

Executive Senior Associate Athletics Director for Sports Administration

University of Texas Athletics | TexasLonghorns.com

E: sarahb@utexas.edu | M: 732.789.5722 | T: @SarahB_HookEm

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

2 I hereby certify that on this 15th day of May, 2025, a true and correct copy of the 3 foregoing: LIMITED OBJECTION BY SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBER SAMUEL M. 4 LANDAU TO HOUSE SETTLEMENT, SEEKING AN EXPANSION OF AUDIT RIGHTS TO ADDRESS FRAUDULENT NIL PROMISES BY POWER 5 SCHOOLS, OR 5 6 ALTERNATIVELY, OBJECTING TO THE INCLUSION OF DUKE UNIVERSITY IN THE HOUSE SETTLEMENT BASED ON ITS FRAUD AND DEFALCATION OF ITS 7 8 STUDENT ATHLETES; SUPPORTING DECLARATIONS OF JENNIFER ALTFELD 9 LANDAU AND RODGER M. LANDAU was filed electronically with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following: 10

See Attached Service List

In addition to causing notification of such filing to be sent to all counsel of records, notice and a copy of this filing was also served upon the following by U.S. Mail:

Madeline Berg	Olivia Paige Dunne
1624 Market St.	56 Oaktrail Rd.
Suite 400	Hillsdale, NJ 07642
Denver, Co 80202	

Marty J. Jackley
Office of the Attorney General
Michael Jabara
18 1302 E. Highway 14
President and CEO
Suite 1
Pierre, SD 57501
President and CEO
19 Las Vegas, NV 89146

Emma Reathaford

2049 Century Park East

Suite 3500S

The State of South Dakota

1302 E. Highway 14

Suite 1

Ping SD 57501

22 Los Angeles, CA 90067 Pierre, SD 57501

In addition to the above, I also caused a copy of this filing to be served by email and U.S. Mail on Counsel for Duke University as follows:

Mark E. Anderson
McGuireWoods LLP
501 Fayetteville Street
Suite 500
Raleigh NC 27601

Case No. 4:20-cv-03919-CW

	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Mark E. Anderson McGuireWoods LLP 1251 Avenue of the Americas 20th Floor New York, NY 10020-1104 Mark E. Anderson Email: manderson@mcguirewoods.com I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.
	9	/s/ Rodger M. Landau
	10	Rodger M. Landau
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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	1 2	Service List In re College Athlete NIL Litigation Case No. 4:20-cy-03919-CW
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LANDAU LAWY LLI ATTORNEYS AT LAW LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA	13
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• **Dustin A Young** dyinsd@gmail.com

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